

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed September 7, 2006, Applicants provide the following. Claims 1, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 22 have been amended without adding new matter. Twenty-two (22) claims remain pending in the application: Claims 1-22. Reconsideration of claims 1-22 in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

1. Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 25 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,448,987 (Easty et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in that the Easty patent fails to teach each limitation as recited in at least the amended independent claims. For example, independent claim 1 recites in part:

defining a mark at a position relative to the input;...moving a first segment based on the input, wherein the first segment comprises a first end positioned at the mark and a second end distant from the first end;...highlighting a particular selection of the plurality of selections when the second end of the first segment is within an area of the particular selection; and selecting the particular selection based on the second end of the first segment being located within the area of the particular selection of the plurality of selections.

The Easty patent fails to teach or suggest at least the defining of a mark, or a segment having a first end at the mark and a second end a distance from the first end where particular selections are highlighted when the second end of the segment is positioned within an area of the selection.

Instead, Easty describes concentric rings 11, 12 (see Figures 1a-b) with each ring having multiple icons 11a, 12a that rotate, and does not teach or suggest a segment having a first end and second end distant from the second end. Further, the Easty patent does not teach or suggest moving a second end of a segment to highlight and/or select a selection. Additionally,

Easty fails to even suggest a segment, a segment extending from a mark, or making a selection in response to the movement of a second end of a segment as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that Easty does not teach or suggest at least defining a mark, moving a segment having a first end at the mark and a second end distant from the first end, or highlighting and selecting a particular selection by virtue of the second end being in the area of the particular selection. Therefore, Easty fails to teach at least all of the limitations recited in amended claim 1, and thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Easty patent.

Claims 1-11 depend from claim 1, and therefore, are also not anticipated by Easty at least due to their dependency upon allowable claim 1.

Further, claim 3 recites in part “highlighting a particular sub-selection from the plurality of sub-selections when a second segment is within an area of the particular sub-selection.” The Easty patent does not teach or suggest a second segment. Further, there is no teaching or suggestion of highlighting a sub-selection based on a second segment. Therefore, claim 3 is also not anticipated by the Easty patent.

Additionally with respect to at least claim 5, the Easty patent does not teach “a save function, a print function, a play function, and a meeting schedule function” as recited in claim 5. Thus, claim 5 is also not anticipated by the Easty patent.

Regarding at least independent claim 12, Easty at least does not teach or suggest “means for defining a first mark at a position relative to the input;...means for extending a first segment from a first end of the first segment at the first mark to a second end of the first segment distant from the first mark;...and means for defining a second mark at the second end of the first segment in response to the selecting of the particular selection,” as recited in amended claim 12.

Applicants demonstrated above that the Easty patent does not teach or suggest defining a mark, defining a segment relative to that mark, or the highlighting of selections based on a position of the second end of the segment. Further, The Easty patent fails to suggest defining a second mark at a position of the second end of the first segment. Therefore, Easty

fails to teach at least all of the limitations recited in amended claim 12, and thus, the rejection of claim 12 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Similarly, amended independent claim 13 recites in part “displaying a first segment comprising a first end and a second end distant from the first end, the second end being rotationally movable about the first end.” The Easty patent does not teach or suggest a segment, or a segment with a second end rotationally movable about the first end. Instead, the Easty patent only describes concentric rings of icons that rotate to provide selections of the icons. Easty fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed segment or making a selection with a segment having a second end that is rotationally movable about a first end. Therefore, the Easty patent fails to teach all of the limitations recited in amended claim 13, and thus, amended claim 13 is not anticipated.

Claims 14-16 depend from claim 13 and, therefore, are also not anticipated by Easty at least due to their dependency upon allowable claim 13. Thus, the rejection of claims 13-16 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Further with regard to at least claim 15, Easty at least does not teach “a second segment...wherein the second segment comprises a first end and a second end distant from the first end with the first end of the second segment being positioned at the second end of the first segment” as amended to recite. There is no suggestion in Easty to generate a second segment, or a second segment that extends from the second end of the first segment. Thus, the rejection of claim 15 is overcome and should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

Further with regard to at least claim 16, Easty at least does not teach “the second end of the second segment is rotationally movable about the second end of the first segment” as amended to recite. Thus, the rejection of claim 16 is overcome and should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

Claim 17 has also been amended to include language similar to that of amended claim 1. Thus, claim 17 is also not anticipated by the Easty patent due at least for the reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 18-21 are dependent upon allowable claim 17. Thus, claims 18-21 are also not anticipated by the Easty patent due at least to their dependency on allowable claim 17.

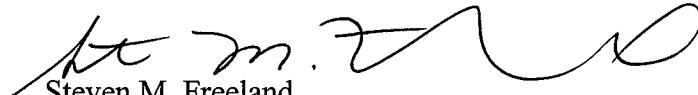
Claim 22 has been amended to include language similar to amended claim 12. Thus, at least for the reasons given above with respect to claim 12, the rejection of claim 22 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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